

REMARKS

Upon the entering of the current Amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 23 and 24 will be amended, and claim 2 will be cancelled. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Claims 1, 3-11 and 22-24, accordingly, will be pending in the application following entering of this Amendment.

Acknowledgement is hereby provided that the following rejections have been withdrawn:

- (1) rejection of claims 1, 2-11 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement;
- (2) rejection of claims 1, 2-11 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing, in particular, to provide enablement;
- (3) rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention;
- (4) rejection of claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention;
- (5) rejection of claim 21 on prior-art.

Regarding the outstanding Office Action, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Casey Shea Hagopian for her thorough search and review of the prior-art, her careful consideration and examination of the present application and claims, and her indication on page 6 of the Office Action that each of claims 2, 3, 7, 11, 23 and 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant has amended the current application so that all claims now depend, ultimately, from one or more of the combinations of those objected-to claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 22. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Totakura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,584) should no longer apply.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent, amended claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Totakura et al., taken separately or together with any other reference of record. Applicant accordingly requests that the rejection based on Totakura et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the current claims in the subject application patentably distinguish over, and are allowable over, the prior art of record.

Allowance of all presently pending claims is respectfully requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's attorney at the below number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any needed fees to deposit account 50-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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